



INSIDE:

Chronology of
events - Page 2

Akashi
- Page 3

Crucial role
- Page 4

Human rights
- Page 5

Military observers
- Page 6

Family reunions
- Page 7

Alternative to war
- Page 8

Difficult mission
- Page 9

Military principles
- Page 10

Improvements
- Page 11

Border monitoring
- Page 12

Water supply
- Page 13

Briefs
- Page 14

ROADS OPEN INTO SARAJEVO



An UNPROFOR convoy arriving in Sarajevo crosses a bridge at Hadzici. The road was opened following the 12 October cease-fire agreement *Photo: P. W. Ball*

Annan optimistic about peace plan

The new Special Envoy to the Former Yugoslavia and NATO, Kofi Annan, arrived in Zagreb on 4 November with an optimistic message about the future of the peace initiative for the region. Mr Annan has temporarily replaced the former Special Representative of the Secretary-General, Yasushi Akashi, as head of the UN Peace Forces. Before leaving, Mr Akashi said the UN operation had played "an indispensable role under very difficult circumstances" during his 22-month tenure—page 3

CHRONOLOGY OF EVENTS



Mr Annan arrives at Zagreb airport on 4 November

Photo: Staton Winter

By RICHARD CALVER and MARC McEVOY

9 October: the International Criminal Tribunal in The Hague began hearing evidence against former Bosnian Serb prison camp commander Dragan Nikolic. NATO aircraft attacked a Bosnian Serb Army (BSA) command and control bunker following further shelling of Tuzla which had caused the death of a Norwegian soldier. Fighting in western Bosnia and Herzegovina (BH) continued between the BSA and Bosnian Government (BiH) forces. Muslims were being expelled from Serb-held areas near the front lines. Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali told Finance Ministers at an International Monetary Fund/World Bank meeting in Washington that the funding shortage facing the UN jeopardized traditional peace-keeping operations.

10 October: a cease-fire in BH, planned

UN PEACE FORCES NEWS reports on the work of the three United Nations missions in the former Yugoslavia: UN Confidence Restoration Operation in Croatia (UNCRO); UN Protection Force (UNPROFOR), in Bosnia and Herzegovina; and UN Preventive Deployment Force (UNPREDEP), in the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia.

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to start at 0001 hours, was postponed because of a delay in restoring utilities (particularly Russian-sourced gas) to Sarajevo. UN High Commissioner for Refugees Sadako Ogata said she was appalled by widespread violations of human rights occurring in formerly Serb-held parts of Croatia now under Croatian Government control. It was announced that the Special Representative of the Secretary-General, Yasushi Akashi, would leave his post at his own request and be replaced temporarily by a Special Envoy to Former Yugoslavia and NATO, Kofi Annan, Under-Secretary-General for Peace-keeping Operations.

11 October: as fighting in western BH continued, and Mrkonjic Grad and then Sanski Most fell to Croat forces, the start of the BH cease-fire was again postponed despite the resumption of utilities services in Sarajevo.

12 October: after the start of the 60-day cease-fire in BH, the first meeting of a Joint Commission between the Bosnian Serbs and the Government side was held at Sarajevo airport under the chair of UNPROFOR Chief of Mission Antonio Pedauye. NATO Ambassadors meeting in Brussels approved a plan authorizing Supreme Allied Commander Europe George Joulwan to prepare for the build-up of troops to enforce a peace settlement in BH. The Security Council in a statement called on the parties to respect fully the cease-fire in BH, as fighting continued in western BH but died down elsewhere.

14 October: the Chairman of the US Joint Chiefs of Staff, General John Shalikashvili, visited Zagreb and Sarajevo for discussions

with the respective Governments. Fighting continued in western BH near Prijedor, which appeared to visiting UN Military Observers (UNMOs) to be only half populated. In a statement released on his departure from Knin, Sector South Commander Brigadier-General Alain Forand said Croatia had failed to prevent the murders of elderly Serbs remaining in Krajina and the concurrent destruction and looting of Serb property.

15 October: an agreement normalizing relations between FYROM and Greece came into effect. A French patrol trying to survey the Sarajevo-Gorazde road was threatened by BSA troops.

16 October: the Contact Group, together with EU envoy Carl Bildt and US envoy Richard Holbrooke, met in Moscow. At Sarajevo airport, the sides to the Joint Commission met for the third time under UNPROFOR auspices and presented maps of the confrontation line, showing their views of the line to be substantially in agreement.

17 October: a UNHCR convoy reached Gorazde for the first time without being stopped or harassed while travelling through three Bosnian Serb checkpoints.

18 October: Mr Holbrooke and Mr Bildt were in Sarajevo for meetings with the BH Government and UNPROFOR. UNPROFOR's assessment from the confrontation line maps presented by the sides was that following the fighting in western BH the Bosnian Federation held 51.6 per cent of the territory and the Bosnian Serbs 48.4 per cent. Of the Federation territory, 31.6 per cent was held by Croat forces and 20 per cent by the BiH. The Secretary-General submitted a report to the General Assembly on the situation in the occupied territories of Croatia. The report observed that recently adopted executive and legislative measures in Croatia seemed "incompatible with Croatia's stated intention to facilitate the return" of Croatian Serbs who had left the country.

19 October: Mr Holbrooke met President Tudjman in Zagreb and was assured that Croatia would not attempt to retake Sector East by military means while peace talks continued. In Sarajevo, water began flowing through parts of the distribution network after the signing of an agreement between the parties.

20 October: NATO Secretary-General Willy Claes announced his resignation.

22 October: more than 150 Heads of State met in New York to mark the 50th

Continued page 15

HEADQUARTERS

Three million receive assistance

By MARC McEVoy

Almost three million people in the former Yugoslavia had received humanitarian assistance from the UN, saving many from starvation and freezing to death, the outgoing Special Representative of the Secretary-General, Yasushi Akashi, said before leaving Zagreb on 1 November.

Outlining the achievements of the UN operation during his 22-month tenure as head of the mission, Mr Akashi said the UN had played an indispensable role under very difficult circumstances and that it had done its best to meet the conditions set by the Security Council resolutions.

"We achieved many cease-fires and military stabilization measures, although many of them were violated," he said.

"We fixed schools and hospitals, repaired roads, and provided water, electricity and gas whenever we could. And we kept Sarajevo airport open, although it was interrupted many times."

Mr Akashi led the UN Protection Force before it was set up from 1 April this year as the UN Peace Forces covering three missions: UNPROFOR, the UN Confidence Restoration Operation in Croatia, and the UN Preventive Deployment Force.

He said the UN was never given the means to do more than it did.

"For instance, for the full protection of the safe areas, the Secretary-General



Mr Akashi gives a final press conference at Zagreb airport

Photo: Janel Schroeder

asked for 37,000 troops but was given only 7,000," he said.

Mr Akashi, who will be taking up a new position as Special Adviser to the Secretary-General, said UN troops could only operate as peace-keepers—"lightly armed messengers of mediation, whose essential task was that of being a bridge between the warring sides".

"We didn't come here to fight a war," he said. "We were simply not equipped or mandated to do so."

Mr Akashi said NATO air strikes had not been the only reason for the improved situation facing the latest United States-led peace initiative.

"Times have changed with the Croatian military action, and with the Bosnian Serbs coming under the guidance of President Milosevic," he said. "The parties are more prepared to talk peace now than they were a year ago, or two years ago."

Mr Akashi said he did not agree that force was the only solution to resolving the conflict in the former Yugoslavia.

The outgoing SRS said he believed the prospects for the latest peace initiative were promising, and that the parties in the conflict had been more or less exhausted.

They had come to realize that there was no military solution and that they had to search for a political settlement now.

In a statement released before his departure, Mr Akashi said the UN had embarked on an unprecedented relationship with NATO and had pushed the limits of classical peace-keeping.

"A valuable lesson from this experience has been that under certain conditions, there is a role for a more determined use of military means," he said.

"However, the use of force is not a panacea for all problems, especially in a mission with lightly armed peace-keepers who are widely dispersed.

"Using force under these conditions was one of the most difficult choices I faced during my time here."

Special Envoy remains optimistic

The new Special Envoy to the Former Yugoslavia and to NATO, Kofi Annan, said he was optimistic about the future of a peace settlement after arriving in Zagreb.

"The UN has been doing very serious and good work during the last few years and I think our objective was to try to contain the situation and to provide an opportunity for the diplomatic process to go forward," said Mr Annan, who had come from meetings with Contact Group leaders in London, Paris, Moscow and at NATO headquarters in Brussels.

"There seem to be dynamic and important developments on that front and we are hopeful that there will be a peace agreement."

Mr Annan, of Ghana, said he would follow on with the good work of the outgoing Special Representative of the Secretary-General, Yasushi Akashi, and the Force Commander, Lieutenant-General Bernard Janvier.

As to whether he was optimistic, Mr Annan said: "I'm always optimistic. I wouldn't be in this business if I weren't."

Mr Annan travelled to Bonn and then New York from 6 November for further talks with Contact Group leaders.

He was expected to meet Serbian President Slobodan Milosevic, Croatian President Franjo Tudjman and Bosnia and Herzegovina President Alija Izetbegovic after they concluded their meetings in the United States.

Before taking up his new duties in the former Yugoslavia, Mr Annan had been the Under-Secretary-General for Peace-keeping Operations at UN headquarters.



Mr Annan

HEADQUARTERS

Janvier defends crucial role of peace-keepers



General Janvier with Mr Akashi in Zagreb after the Bosnian Serbs released UN detainees

By MARC McEVOY

The UN should continue to play a role in helping to resolve the conflict in the former Yugoslavia, said the UN Peace Forces Force Commander, Lieutenant-General Bernard Janvier.

General Janvier defended the UN's performance in the region, saying that much of the criticism levelled at the peace forces had been "unacceptable and often non-objective and biased".

"I believe it was of utmost importance for the UN to operate in this region, and I hope that it will be given the means to continue to do so," he told *UN PEACE FORCES NEWS*.

General Janvier said the UN Peace Forces had taken action to help millions of people who had been facing a distressing situation.

"I am referring to the application of the cease-fire agreements, which it helped to prepare and which we are improving daily, thanks to our impartiality and our bringing together all the parties," he said.

"The daily improvement of the cease-fire agreement (in Bosnia and Herzegovina) augurs well for the successful conclusion of a peace settlement."

General Janvier said the UN played an essential role in improving freedom of movement in and around Sarajevo and to

Gorazde, and in helping restore water, electricity and gas to Sarajevo.

The Force Commander said the period in which he had led the UN Protection Force and the UN Peace Forces had been "a permanent crisis".

"This was especially so in Bosnia and Herzegovina, where cease-fires were broken as early as 11 March by the warring parties,

followed by the closing of the 'blue routes'... and our unsuccessful attempts to pursue the agreement on the cessation of hostilities beyond 30 April."

General Janvier said the crisis escalated when NATO air strikes occurred around Sarajevo in late May and the Bosnian Serbs detained UN peace-keepers. However, he said it was the combination of NATO airstrikes and the deployment of the Rapid Reaction Force units that finally led to a successful cease-fire and the withdrawal of heavy weapons from around Sarajevo.

As to whether the UN should establish a permanent peace-keeping force, General Janvier said that while he believed the UN had a crucial role to play in peace-keeping, "one should be very vigilant concerning the creation of a permanent force".

"But I do believe that when it comes to peace-keeping, the UN should develop a concept, define its mode of action, and especially control the level of readiness of forces contributed by Member States."

The Force Commander said the future of the UN operation in the former Yugoslavia would depend on a decision of the Security Council, as would a peace plan implemented by NATO.

"As to the military aspect of it, I do think if NATO were to come in and consequently reduce the military role of the UN, the UN would still be present, especially through the specialized agencies such as UNHCR, which should remain active in the field, and also through the civil affairs components."

Commander pays tribute to troops

The Force Commander, Lieutenant-General Bernard Janvier, issued a statement paying special tribute to all members of the UN Peace Forces on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of the United Nations:

"I would like to take this opportunity on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of the United Nations to thank all members of the peace-keeping community with the United Nations Peace Forces in the former Yugoslavia for their exceptional commitment and dedication to the aims of this mission.

"I would especially like to pay tribute to those who have lost their lives in the pursuit of peace and to the men and women who have worked under very harsh and dangerous conditions

in the quest for peace in the Balkans.

"The men and women of the United Nations Peace Forces have, through their sacrifice and selfless work, shown the world what the United Nations is capable of achieving.

"The world is not as stable as it was expected to be at the end of the Cold War and it will take concerted resolve and a continued belief that the United Nations can make a difference in decreasing tensions, improving relations and helping to settle conflicts peacefully.

"You can be proud of what you've been able to accomplish in this mission. On the occasion of the 50th anniversary of the United Nations I wish each of you the best for continued success in the future."

INVESTIGATION



Elderly Serbs in the Plavno valley speak to UN officials

Photo: Staton Winter

Protecting human rights

By SUSAN ANGLE

The last time I saw my father alive he was in his yard in the hamlet of Kakanj. That was 14 September. He had by then moved into the back shack after his house was burned following the Croatian Army's "Operation Storm". He was cutting branches off the tree for firewood. He was clean shaven and seemed fine. Yesterday, on 10 October, I found his body. He was drowned in the well at the back of the house."

These are the words of a Serb resident in a former Sector South town who did not want to be named. At the back of the house, a UN Human Rights Action Team (HRAT) had gathered to hear the man's story and to investigate the site.

The body of his father, swollen and stiff, was still floating in the well. The smell of garlic stored in the well house eased the stench of the body on the warm Indian summer afternoon.

"In September I had put a sign on the door of the shack: 'A senile, 85-year-old man lives here and he has nothing of any value.' I had also drawn the Croatian flag on the door, hoping to protect him," said the man.

Calmly and clearly the son explained how there had been 10 Serbs in his father's village; now there was none. His father's brother had reportedly been shot two weeks earlier. Another woman had committed suicide and all the others had left.

The man said he had called the UN to

protect evidence regarding the circumstances of his father's death.

In New York on 9 November, the Security Council adopted unanimously a resolution on serious violations of international humanitarian law in the former Croatian Sectors and in other territories of the former Yugoslavia. The resolution condemned in the strongest possible terms all violations of

humanitarian law, and reaffirmed the demand that all parties, including the Croatian Government and the Bosnian Serbs, respect fully the rights of the local populations and put an end to human rights violations.

The case of the man in Kakanj has not been the first such investigation conducted by the HRATs since the August offensive in former Sectors North and South.

Teams that comprise UN Civilian Police (Civpol), UN Military Observers and Political and Humanitarian Affairs Officers have been on hundreds of investigations and reported on more than 650 instances of possible human rights abuses, ranging from harassment to killing, a pattern of activity which continued months after "Operation Storm".

A detailed chronology of offences has been compiled at the UN Peace Forces (UNPF) headquarters in Zagreb, largely based on facts garnered from HRAT reports.

Together with efforts to monitor and document the humanitarian situation, the teams persistently pressed for cooperation from local Croatian authorities. Information was transmitted to the responsible military and civilian officials and, in turn, Civpol monitored subsequent Croatian police investigations.

According to UN personnel on the ground, the response of Croatian authorities was insufficient, in light of the weight of the information supplied by the HRATs. Repeated requests for access to Croatian information

Continued page 6

Teams probe reports of abuse

UN Human Rights Action Teams (HRATs) began operating in Sectors North and South within days of the Croatian offensive during early August.

Functioning for the first time, the HRATs were conceived by the UN Peace Forces Political and Humanitarian Affairs Office to help protect the human rights of the remaining Serbs.

In the wake of "Operation Storm", the composite groups of Political and Humanitarian Affairs Officers, UN Civilian Police (Civpol) and UN Military Observers (UNMOs) visited more than 250 villages and reported on at least 650 cases of killings, armed robbery, intimidation, looting, house burnings and property destruction. At grave sites, the HRATs witnessed 600 freshly dug graves, many of them unmarked.

HRATs saw more than 70 bodies of people killed following the offensive, many of them elderly Serb civilians. Some corpses

had bullet wounds to the head and back. In some cases, witnesses alleged killings were carried out by Croatian military or police forces, HRATs reported.

Widespread destruction and looting was also reported. Visiting almost 400 villages in Sector South, UNMOs found 77 per cent of property damage to the extent of being uninhabitable. Most homes destroyed were in communities that had had Serb majorities. HRAT members said that houses bearing "Hrvatska kuca"—Croatian house—were left alone.

Many cases were discovered by HRATs on patrol. At other times, people from the communities approached the UN for assistance. The six teams, comprising about 30 people, gathered detailed information, summaries of which have been reported daily to UN headquarters in New York, the UN Centre for Human Rights in Geneva, the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia, the diplomatic corps and other relevant international bodies.

INVESTIGATION

Protection of human rights

From page 5

went unheeded. Police patrols and adequate road checkpoints were installed belatedly. Croatian authorities were present at the scene of some abuses recorded by the HRATs, yet failed to act. Announcements that legal action would be taken against some suspects have not yet produced results.

Strong protests were made by governments, the UN and other international organizations against the inadequacy of efforts by Croatia to prevent human rights abuses or to prosecute offenders. Concerns were raised about the systematic nature of the offences creating an environment of fear and instability which made it realistically impossible for Serbs to stay and unlikely for them to return.

The UN's newly appointed Special Rapporteur for Human Rights, Elisabeth Rehn, said after her first visit to the region that unless the human rights situation in Croatia improved, Croatia's acceptance into the European community might be "postponed". United States Assistant Secretary of State for Human Rights John Shattuck said that evidence of an improved humanitarian situation was "essential if Croatia aspired to be fully integrated into the international community".

Improvement on human rights was also being linked to economic assistance. After a recent ministerial-level meeting of the European Union, it was announced that any aid package for reconstruction of the region would depend on respect for human rights and the voluntary return of refugees.

The Croatian authorities have disputed the UN reporting of the human rights abuses occurring in the former Sectors, terming it "untrue and biased". Croatian officials acknowledge some violations, describing them as limited, and blaming "rogue elements". The extent of violations and the systematic nature reported by the UN HRATs have been corroborated by other monitoring organizations, including the European Community Monitoring Mission and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe.

Clearly, the UN efforts have sustained the focus on human rights violations in the former Sectors, ensuring that the situation remains very much on the international agenda.

A vulnerable population



Military observers visit a Serb woman in the Plavno valley

Photo: Staton Winter

By SUSAN ANGLE

Many of the 27 people on the UN bus heading towards the Knin Mayor's office had lived in the Plavno valley since the 1920s. Ironically, those people—all ethnic Serbs—were making the trip to obtain "identity cards", without which they had no civil standing.

They were among the few Serbs remaining in the former Sectors North and South. Besides losing their civil identities when the region fell to the advancing Croatian Army, they suffered from the collapse of the rural social fabric upon which they had relied. With Croatian identity cards, the Serbs gained the right to travel, meaning they could pack up their few possessions and leave the valley they had made their home for decades.

Of the 1,200 remaining near Knin, most wanted to leave as soon as possible. They would follow almost 200,000 Serbs who had fled since August.

"As soon as I get my papers I will join my children in Serbia," says Nikola, who was born in Cvijanovici in 1933. "My mother died last week, so now I have no reason to stay. I can't make a life here."

Scattered in remote hamlets, without transportation and often without currency other than the worthless "Republika Srpska Krajina" notes, remaining Serbs depended largely on the assistance of the UN Military Observers (UNMOs), who had organized the bus trip into town.

Navigating the treacherous roads to the little villages—all with signs of severe loot-

ing and arson—the UNMOs made frequent visits, bringing food, medicine and sometimes the most valuable thing: social contact.

"Their lives have been destroyed and many have been left completely alone," says UNMO Major Peter Marti. "In some ways, what these people confront from day to day presents more danger than the Croatian offensive. When we started to come around just after "Operation Storm", they would run and hide, thinking we might rob or hurt them. But they have grown to trust us," he said.

With winter approaching the country roads are often impassable, and the sustainability of the UNMO support system is doubtful. The future capacity of the UNMOs to provide services to the population will also be curtailed by a substantial reduction by December of the 140-person UNMO force now in the former Sectors. By late October, the efforts of Croatian authorities to assist the Serb population had not been sufficient, said Kishore Mandhyan, Political and Humanitarian Affairs Officer in Sector South. More concerted action would be needed to develop social mechanisms able to replace the UN support system, he said.

At the local level, there had been discussion of a convoy to transport the remaining Serb population—estimated at no more than 5,500 in both former Sectors North and South. But many issues would arise, including where they would be resettled and how they would be cared for. Instead, the UN continued to press the Croatian authorities to provide a social safety net for the vulnerable population.

WITHDRAWAL



Backbone of the mission

By MARGARET LEE

Say "mission" and the words that usually pop into mind are "helping others in need". Say mission to Irvin Williams, Senior Inventory Clerk for the UN Confidence Restoration Operation in Croatia, and he'll say "equipment, things", all the stuff that actually makes a mission run. For without these things, nothing else can happen.

When it comes to packing up and moving out, Williams is your man. He's an expert in making things disappear and then reappear when and where you want them. (Sorry, he doesn't make house calls.) Williams, who has 22 years' military background, compares the process of mission withdrawal to moving from a home. "Withdrawal—it's not easy," he acknowledges. "It's something no one likes to do."

In Knin, where Williams is handling the withdrawal of several battalions, he's working towards a December 15 target date for withdrawal. Working under supervisor Sarah Dolton, the staff of four comprises the Inventory Control Unit, maintaining a close link to Engineering. "It's a team effort. As long as you work in sync, there's no problem with withdrawal."

"Engineers are the backbone of the mission," says Williams. "They do the nuts and bolts of the mission, getting everything in place, keeping things tight." And what exactly is everything? "Everything that's on the ground," says Williams.

The Inventory Control Unit keeps tabs on what property is where, so that when something is needed, it can be found. "It's a lot of stuff," he said, running down a list few would want to contemplate: 2,000 generators, maybe 10,000 live-in quarters, "no idea how many containers", watertanks, air conditioners, refrigeration, linen, light bulbs, water

pipings, tools. The unit is responsible for cleaning out not only base headquarters in Knin, but other forces in the area. The Jordanians, Kenyans, Canadians, and Slovaks have been checked out. Left are the Czechs.

As for those things that turn up missing, Williams says it's not so bad. The top prize so far goes to the Kenyan forces, with 90 per cent success in finding all equipment. Standing in a now-empty field once occupied by a large battalion, Williams has a look of contentment. "In a war situation, you'd expect to find lots of things unaccounted for," he says, "but I'm pleased with the way quality records have been maintained."

Mr Williams comes to inventory control naturally, being a listmaker from way back and a former manager of property control in the United States Army. "I'm a control person," he says. He gets great pleasure crossing things off, watching things fall into place, and seeing things sent on their way. In the case of equipment from Knin, much is going to the British regiment and into the heart of Bosnia and Herzegovina. And then, of course, there are the things that need to be repaired and maintained. All this falls into the domain of the Inventory Control Unit, working quietly behind the scenes, going wherever the engineers go.

When asked about the biggest challenge of the job, Mr Williams replied: "Keeping track of all the changing acronyms."



Mr Williams

Family reunions for both sides build confidence

By DOUGLAS COFFMAN

Tears of joy ran down an old woman's face as she rode the UN bus through Sector East's zone of separation on the way to being temporarily reunited with members of her family.

The long hug she gave relatives who had anxiously waited for her at the UN checkpoint was a memorable moment during a three-hour family reunion organized by the UN and the local Red Cross as a confidence-building measure between the sides.

Sixty-three people, both ethnic Serbs and ethnic Croats, got to catch up on each other's lives after being separated for three years.

Such meetings had occurred several times before but not for many months because of the military events earlier this year in the other former Sectors. It took weeks of planning and negotiating to make this day happen.

Separate meetings to discuss organizing a possible reunion were held between the regional Red Cross associations from both Croatia and the local Serbs at the UN checkpoint at the Sarvas-Nemetin crossing point.

At the first meeting between the heads of the regional Red Cross associations on 17 October, the delegations proposed two separate family reunions—one for the residents of the northern half of the Sector and one for the southern half.

It was decided that families could bring parcels containing food, clothes and medicine to the reunion. At the two following meetings, lists of participants were exchanged and rules were established but it was concluded that the security situation in the northern half of the Sector (Baranja) would not permit a reunion there.

UN Political and Humanitarian Affairs officer Goran Stigmer, who chaired some of the meetings with the local Red Cross, was present at the reunion.

"We think that it was a very important step in trying to create some confidence between the two sides," he said. "Both sides put in a lot of effort to make this day a reality."

The UN Civilian Police and UN Military Police also played a large role.

Mr Stigmer said it was hoped regional meetings between the local Red Cross associations would be held every two weeks, leading to further family reunions.

REVIEW

Alternative to war

The goals of the UN Confidence Restoration Operation in Croatia, whose mandate expires at the end of this month, have met with both success and frustration

By MARGARET LEE

Almost eight months have passed since the start of the UN Confidence Restoration Operation in Croatia (UNCRO). As defined in resolution 981, UNCRO was to be an "interim arrangement to create the conditions that will facilitate a negotiated settlement consistent with the territorial integrity of the Republic of Croatia and which guarantees the security and rights of all communities living in a particular area of the Republic of Croatia, irrespective of whether they constitute in this area a majority or minority".

Efforts to put these goals into practice met with both success and frustration. The events of May and June, particularly the Croatian Government's offensive in Sector West, were a setback to implementing the mandate for UNCRO. In fact, there were misgivings about proceeding with the mandate in an atmosphere in which the aims of the international community did not have the full support of the parties to the dispute. But as UNCRO was the only alternative to war, it was bound to continue albeit in a revised time-frame.

"We had planned to have the full redeployment in support of the new mandate done by 30 June, and to begin progressively to implement all of our new tasks by then," said a senior political adviser to the former Special Representative of the Secretary-General, Yasushi Akashi. "But it is now going to take a major part of the present mandate period, which expires on 30 November, just to do this."

With a major reduction in troops, UNCRO's challenge was to restore full compliance with the cease-fire agreement of March 1994, a pact that had held up until the offensive in Western Slavonia. Border monitoring became more difficult and the economic agreement of December 1994 lay in tatters, its foundation of strong respect for the cease-fire having been wiped away.

UNCRO's role, however, has been not to impose solutions but to help the parties find a peaceful resolution of their difficulties

through face-to-face meetings.

In the aftermath of the attack on Sectors North and South and also Sector West in May, a specific UNCRO mandate was to record human rights violations *vis-a-vis* the remaining Serb population. This was carried out by a small staff, working in the field, who prepared their findings carefully.

"The role of monitoring human rights abuses has prompted an unprecedented response by the international community," said UNCRO's Head of Political and Humanitarian Affairs, Gerard Fischer. "We have had a major catalytic role in helping to bring about better conditions."

Establishing respect for human rights in



Mr Min

"The role of monitoring human rights abuses has prompted an unprecedented response by the international community. We have had a major catalytic role in helping to bring about better conditions"

the former Sectors has been a major goal of UNCRO as it continues its work. UN Civilian Police (Civpol) have been active in dozens of communities in Western Slavonia conducting door-to-door surveys, taking down names, ages and addresses of all Serbs who chose to remain behind following the exodus of tens of thousands

of Croatian Serbs from the region.

The monitors note individual needs, especially for food, medicine, or other necessities—even that of the man who asked: "Can you get me a wife?" Moments of relaxed humour typified the way the international police went about their work. The intention was that the UN presence in Western Slavonia would become a peace-building operation with a posture that was primarily civil, not military.

The recently established Human Rights Action Teams (HRATs) have also pressed ahead in the former Sectors to investigate allegations made by the remaining Serbs about mistreatment, threats and destruction of property.

With the UN "Operation Safe Passage" in Western Slavonia, the goal was to create conditions that would not only encourage those remaining Serbs to stay where they are, but also encourage those who had left to return.

Delivering humanitarian assistance to those people who were rendered defenceless has been UNCRO's most critical objective. The old, handicapped, weak, those with no economic means living in remote villages, whose houses have been looted and destroyed, have been sought out and helped with the cooperation of other international organizations.

Meanwhile, the military component of UNCRO, including units such as the Slovak Engineering Battalion, continued the dangerous and sobering task of mine-clearing.

The Civpol presence was being strengthened in former Sectors North and South.

Together with UN Military Observers (UNMOs), Civpol began working with the HRATs, investigating allegations of criminal acts and reporting on living conditions in isolated parts of the former Sectors. Civpol teams visited villages one by one, counting the partly burnt and destroyed houses, trying to establish contact with remaining residents and counting and identifying the Serbs and Croats. Any special needs were referred to the HRATs.

The UNMOs coordinated humanitarian survey work in Knin and outlying areas of both former Sectors North and South, to help establish precisely what happened in the region in the wake of "Operation Storm". In the aftermath of immense destruction, their job has been to survey the whole area, not only to see what was done but to also do simple things like opening the stables and letting the animals out. As winter approaches, they will persevere under increasingly difficult conditions with their sensitive tasks.

REVIEW

History's most difficult mission

The UN Protection Force, whose mandate expires on 30 November, has played an unprecedented role in history's most difficult peace-keeping mission

By RICHARD CALVER

The UN Protection Force (UNPROFOR) has faced enormous challenges during its present mandate, not least of all its attempts during April to secure an extension to the four-month cease-fire in Bosnia and Herzegovina brokered in the wake of former United States President Jimmy Carter's visit to Sarajevo last December.

Despite the best efforts of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General, Yasushi Akashi, the parties did not agree on the terms of a cease-fire and Mr Akashi returned to Zagreb on 1 May to deal with an emerging crisis in Croatia, as Croatian Army troops attacked Serb forces in Sector West.

As the parties in Bosnia and Herzegovina returned to their war during May, Sarajevo witnessed its heaviest shelling since 1993. Mr Akashi deplored the resumption of fighting, saying it had set back the process of seeking a peaceful settlement. Nevertheless, UNPROFOR continued to pursue its mediation role between the parties, including trying to reactivate the anti-sniping agreement signed in September 1994 but repeatedly broken by the parties.

Following the expiry of a deadline (not met by the Serb side) for the return of all heavy weapons to storage sites, NATO aircraft bombed two Bosnian Serb Army (BSA) ammunition dumps near Pale on 25 May, an act which was followed by widescale hostage-taking by the Serbs and numerous incidents involving attacks on UN personnel, many of whom were located in exposed positions. On 27 May, French soldiers carried out an attack on Sarajevo's Vrbanja Bridge to retake from the BSA a UN position that had been overrun. Two French soldiers and four Serbs were killed.

In the wake of these and other incidents, France floated the idea of setting up a Rapid Reaction Force (RRF) to assist UNPROFOR in its tasks. The idea was taken up by the international community, the Security Council on 16 June authorizing an increase in UNPROFOR's strength by up to 12,500 to permit the establishment of the RRF. In the first use of the RRF's French mortars on 2 July, two shells were fired at a BSA position that had targeted UNPROFOR vehicles using the Mount Igman road into Sarajevo.

With the RRF still building up to strength, July saw UNPROFOR attempting to deal—using the limited means at its disposal—with determined BSA advances on the designated 'safe areas' of Srebrenica and Zepa. Srebrenica was occupied on 11 July, forcing a withdrawal by the Dutch troops there. Zepa was attacked on 16 July and overrun on 25 July. Without



General Smith meets UN troops on Mt Igman

Photo: P. W. Ball

the military means to defend the safe areas, UNPROFOR fully supported UNHCR's efforts to assist the growing number of displaced persons who were housed temporarily in Tuzla. On 25 July, Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic and BSA Commander Lieutenant-General Ratko Mladic were indicted by the International Criminal Tribunal for genocide and crimes against humanity.

At the same time, French and British elements of the Multinational Brigade of the RRF—including artillery batteries and tanks—began to deploy on Mount Igman, and on 26 July Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali announced his agreement with plans put to him by NATO for a streamlining of the procedures for utilizing air power. Fighting died down in Bosnia and Herzegovina during the Croatian Army offensive in the former Sectors North and South during August, and as humanitarian convoys began reaching Sarajevo again a United States-led peace initiative gathered strength.

In a tragic accident, American Contact Group envoy Robert Frasure, two other United States envoys and a French soldier were killed on 19 August when the vehicle in which they were riding slid off the Mount Igman road.

UNPROFOR condemned a BSA mortar attack on a civilian area of Sarajevo which resulted in the immediate deaths of more than 30 persons and injury to another 80 on 28 August. This prompted the largest combat mission in NATO history when NATO launched Operation "Deliberate Force", bombing BSA targets throughout Bosnia and Herzegovina. On 3 September, taking advantage of a pause in the bombing, UNPROFOR unilaterally opened the 'blue routes' over Sarajevo airport to civilian traffic.

Following the suspension of NATO air action over Sarajevo on 15 September, and the beginning of the withdrawal of BSA heavy weapons from around Sarajevo, UNPROFOR reopened the airport after more than five months.

US President Bill Clinton announced on 5 October that a 60-day cease-fire in Bosnia and Herzegovina would soon come into effect, to be followed by proximity talks between the Presidents of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia and Serbia to try to reach a settlement.

Following the commencement of the cease-fire on 12 October, meetings of the Joint Commission between the Bosnian Serb and Government sides began to be held under UNPROFOR auspices. Utilities were progressively restored to Sarajevo, the road to Gorazde was reopened to UN traffic, and NATO Ambassadors authorized the necessary build-up of troops to enforce a peace settlement.



Mr Pedauye

MISSION

Return to military principles

By RICHARD CALVER

The "hostage crisis" during May, in which Bosnian Serb forces detained large numbers of UN peace-keepers following NATO air strikes on Serb positions, was a watershed for the UN Protection Force (UNPROFOR), says the Commander of peace-keeping forces in Sector Sarajevo, French Brigadier-General Jean-René Bachelet.

The spectacle of unarmed Military Observers being handcuffed at Bosnian Serb

defence installations was a telling image, and one which drove home to military planners the vital necessity of ensuring that peace-keepers would be guaranteed protection in the event of further strikes. As a result, when NATO air strikes recommenced on 30 August, there was no repetition of the hostage-taking of three months earlier.

"To fully understand the situation we're living in today, it is necessary to put it in the perspective of the past few months," said General Bachelet, describing the changes wrought during that period. "The May crisis

illustrated the difference between being in a position of strength—of being forceful—and being in a position of vulnerability, for example with men guarding weapons collection points inside the territory of one or the other party."

Because of what happened in May, UNPROFOR's military commanders returned to basic military principles, foremost among them being emphasis on safety.

"For a military force to be efficient, it must first be secure," said General Bachelet. "What this means in practice is that our military dispositions on the ground have been re-established in a more coherent way, with many of our observation posts upgraded to combat positions capable of absorbing direct and indirect fire." Achieving a favourable balance of power—another vital consideration—was achieved through the deployment of the Rapid Reaction Force's Multinational Brigade on Mount Igman in late July, initially with heavy mortars and later with heavy artillery.

"This has basically changed the balance of power in our favour and given us a little more 'moral authority' as well," said General Bachelet. "Of course, the change in the balance of power would of itself have had no consequence if it were not backed by a will to use it."

UNPROFOR has long sought freedom of movement, but a third military principle which has been put into effect in recent weeks is liberty of action.

"I believe that we have proven that the resort to a less dogmatic kind of peace-keeping is not only tolerable in this context, but necessary," said General Bachelet. "The resulting use of force must, however, be measured and controlled. In other words, be the strongest, but be the strongest in a just way." UNPROFOR's unilateral reopening of the "blue routes" across Sarajevo airport, allowing both Bosnian Serb and Muslim civilian traffic freedom of movement into and out of Sarajevo, is a pointer to the future.

As to what will happen in the event that the long-awaited peace settlement takes effect, General Bachelet makes an interesting observation: "Those who compare the so-called 'humiliated' blue helmets to 'green' soldiers, and say they are the only ones with the solution, are wrong. As we have demonstrated recently, it is a question of means and will. I believe that, immediately following a peace accord, the best soldiers to do the job will be the soldiers who are here right now."

Is the war really over in Sarajevo?

By HENRY PEIRSE

People continue to drive their cars through Sarajevo's streets at break-neck speeds, although there has been little sniping since the cease-fire in Bosnia and Herzegovina began on 12 October.

And while pedestrians can stroll about without the threat of shelling, most residents remain cautious. The smiles that light up their faces have a hauntingly temporary feel.

Zijad, a trainee architect from Hadzici, talks wistfully about the cease-fire. "We have hoped so many times, it is hard to be optimistic," he told *UN PEACE FORCES NEWS*.

Meanwhile, humanitarian aid is being delivered and the restoration of power, gas and water supplies is making daily life more bearable. "It depends on the person. It is better. The way things were. What we ate before. It is good now. Everybody manages somehow," says a woman from Foca who lost all her possessions during the early days of the war. "We would have starved to death without the UN and UNPROFOR and other humanitarian organizations," she adds.

Zijad, like many others, thinks the prospect



Zijad and a friend

Photos: Stefan Winter

of NATO taking a more active role on the ground will help. "The UN didn't know what they were doing here. At least that was how it seemed to us. They only provided us with a little bit of food. Everything NATO has done so far was good," he says.

"The UN couldn't defend themselves, let alone us. Of course, everything depends on what is in the interest of the major powers, on what they want to do with us. We expected a lot from the world and we received very little."

A group of teenagers sitting in the sun, laughing, smoking cigarettes, has a mixture of views about the city's future. "We can sit here and we do not have to be afraid that the next day we might not be able to sit here," said one. "But it won't last," said another. "After four years of war, you do not trust anything."

A third broke in: "It is possible. Every truce makes one hope it will last. I am an optimist. I think the situation could calm down." But beneath the sun and smiles the bottom line sticks. A businessman nervously looking around, clutching his briefcase so tightly his knuckles turn white says: "This is just a little pause. They will feed us now, and then it will go back to what it was. I do not trust anybody anymore."



Teenagers with mixed views

RESTORATION



A young boy rests on sandbags protecting a café

Photos: Staton Winter

Practical improvements

By RICHARD CALVER

The role of the UN Protection Force (UNPROFOR) in Bosnia and Herzegovina remains focused on achieving practical improvements for citizens of the country, says UNPROFOR's Chief of Mission Antonio Pedaue Gonzalez.

As the political leaders of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia and Croatia continue their proximity talks in secrecy in the United States, UNPROFOR continues to work for the cementing of the 60-day cease-fire that came into effect on 12 October, while at the same time assisting the Special Coordinator for Sarajevo, William Eagleton, in his task of ensuring that Sarajevo's utilities and essential services continue to be improved.

"Immediately the cease-fire was brokered by the Americans and signed by the parties, UNPROFOR took an active role—in fact was instrumental—in the entering into force of the agreement," said Mr Pedaue.

"A key condition of that agreement entering into force was the restoration of utilities for Sarajevo. Without the restoration of services, the agreement would have been just another piece of paper; but without UNPROFOR there would have been no restoration."

Although UNPROFOR was not itself a party to the United States-inspired cease-fire agreement, the key American negotiator, Richard Holbrooke, consulted closely with UNPROFOR, in particular with its Commander, Lieutenant-General Rupert

Smith, and with Mr Pedaue.

In a meeting chaired by UNPROFOR at Sarajevo airport on 16 October, the central Joint Commission between the Federation and Bosnian Serb sides reviewed maps of the confrontation line, as the line was understood by the sides.

"This meeting was a very good one from our perspective," said Mr Pedaue. "This is



Pedestrians pass an advertisement for the film, *Natural Born Killers*

because the maps were substantially in agreement, remarkably close. This is a very good start, and although we had some difficulties with serious fighting in western Bosnia in the early period, things improved considerably and the cease-fire is holding."

Mr Pedaue remains reasonably optimistic that the peace process is broadly on track, and that the success of the cease-fire agreement augurs well for the ongoing tough negotiations.

"Now we have a cease-fire that is holding, and more than that—a real cessation of hostilities agreement inserted in the framework and process of peacemaking," he said.

"I hope that in the next few months, possibly before Christmas, we will have a true peace settlement."

The UN Secretary-General, Boutros Boutros-Ghali, has said on many occasions that conditions were never optimal for the deployment of a peace-keeping force such as UNPROFOR in Bosnia and Herzegovina, simply because there has never been a real peace to keep.

He has recommended that a multinational force take over the task of ensuring compliance with an eventual peace settlement.

Civilians

"I think personally that NATO should be here immediately we have a peace agreement," said Mr Pedaue. "There shouldn't be any gap between the signature of the agreement and the deployment of the multinational force, which is expected to comprise NATO troops as well as forces of the Russian Federation plus some countries of the Islamic Conference."

Meanwhile, UNPROFOR is continuing to work for material improvements in Sarajevo and throughout Bosnia and Herzegovina.

A key condition of the 12 October cease-fire is freedom of movement, including freedom of access to Gorazde, first obtained on 17 October.

"UNPROFOR has obtained freedom of movement for itself, for UNHCR and ICRC and related agencies, between Sarajevo and Kiseljak and Hadzici, and now we are working on having the same regime for Gorazde, and in successive stages we want to have this extended for all civilians."

The next phase will involve potentially thornier issues, including some which can only be resolved with the consent of those now involved in the proximity talks—the status of Gorazde, Sarajevo and the Posavina corridor.

MONITORING

'Arctic Circle' troops maintain tranquillity



Observation Post F14 . . . finger-freezing extremes

Photos: Janel Schroeder

By MARGARET LEE

A visit to Observation Post F14 in the border mountains of the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (FYROM) is not for the faint of heart. So it is no coincidence that it is manned by Finnish troops who hail from near the Arctic Circle.

It is easy to imagine what a winter's heavy snowfall will do to the narrow mountain roads leading to OP-F14, which is located near the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (FRY) border. Last year an avalanche turned a 15-minute trip into a five-hour expedition.

A certain flexibility of spirit is required here, as well as some planning ahead, which is what the Arctic Finns at OP-F14 are doing while preparing for winter.

Perched 1,544 metres above sea level and 20 kilometres from the highest peak, OP-F14 is strategically placed at the point where Albania, FRY and FYROM meet, offering a view of three countries at one spot. The wind howls here, and temperatures plummet to finger-freezing extremes.

The 20 Finnish men who call this rugged terrain home, have excelled at turning a few containers into a homey atmosphere. In addition to a cozy dining area and recreation room, they have built themselves a sauna, an impressive gym with weight machines, and guest accommodations with every-

thing but chocolate on the pillow.

Though they don't claim to have much of a night-life, there is an inviting building called Hallis Bar with an outdoor patio, which even in the midday Autumn sunshine looks tempting.

The troops acknowledge a desire to live comfortably, but insist it is more practical than it is hedonistic.

"They are trying to make life easier for

themselves. No one will do it for them," says Lieutenant Vesa Isotalo, "It's all cost-effective."

Life has been quiet at OP-F14, which is the way the "Arctic Circle Battalion" would like it to remain. They attribute some of the tranquillity to the fact that they are there. Keeping it quiet is their mission. They see their job as primarily a presence, along with the other nine Finnish-run OP missions in FYROM.

"Even though there is little traffic in the winter, at least they know we are here," says Lieutenant Isotalo.

"When we patrol, it's not so important that we see, but that we are seen." There are no regular FYROM border guards so the UN presence is extremely important in keeping the peace, Lieutenant Isotalo says.

Though FYROM has been peaceful and life at the OP consequently quiet, there is little room for boredom. That's because, as Lieutenant Isotalo says, "the unexpected can happen at any time. It's easy to be alert when you know the situation might change" and their job is to be ready.

Staying alert during the long hours of silence is not a problem, because they know that a long lull can be all too easily punctuated with the occasional incident. One of the incidents involved Serbs who wanted a Nordic patrol to give up its weapons. Many of the Serbs believe there is no border here.

Because the UN presence is to observe and report, there is no intervention. Deputy Platoon Commander Jari Paju recalled an occasion when nine Albanians were running in the hills, entering FYROM illegally. But such events are rare.



Finnish troops patrol the FRY border in an ATV (All Terrain Vehicle)

MONITORING

Living in this land where three countries meet, the men have come to know the local people. There are 20 farms or ranches in the area, with the Albanian shepherds freely crossing borders.

"They don't care about borders. They go about their business," says Lieutenant Isotalo.

Even the Serbian guards come around to chat and there is talk of a soccer game soon.

On this visit, there were a few donkeys that meandered by and, through a pair of binoculars stationed high on a hill, three FYROM soldiers walking on a road in the distance were visible. It appeared to be the big event of the day. When someone suggested possible smuggling, the notion was quickly dismissed.

Mountains

There's an abundance of mountains; not the dramatic Tyrolean type, but the more smooth, rolling variety with undulating shades of green and ochre.

In this remote setting, the OP is a place where self-sufficiency is highly respected. This is not a place for coddling. And what if the flu goes around and everyone has it? "The person with the lowest fever goes out first," says Lieutenant Isotalo. The medic, one of two who happened to be standing by, was quick to point out the healthy living conditions at the OP, with special emphasis on the good water.

As there are only 20 men to share the work, everyone is a specialist but also a generalist. That is, you do your own job, but the next person's as well. There are specialists for vehicle maintenance and electrical work, two medics, and two cooks, with jobs operating on a carefully planned rotation system.

Life here depends on lots of planning and a well maintained snow scooter. Whatever the conditions, the 24-hour patrol continues, with two tours a day.

Even before the first heavy snowfall, which usually comes in December, there is a strong sense of isolation in these cold mountains. Communication is mainly by high frequency radio. Helicopters can't even stop by because they're prohibited from flying on the Serbian side and the electrical lines prevent them from flying on the other. There was a time last year when OP-F14 was snowed in for five days.

Perhaps it was the lure of Hallis Bar and sauna that have led other FYROM OPs to imitate the Finnish OP system. Or perhaps it was what the Nordics here are most proud of—the fact that they built a communication system from scratch, one that enables them to patrol effectively under all kinds of conditions.

Steady water supply



Drilling water wells in Sarajevo . . . top priority

Photo: P. W. Ball

By MARGARET LEE

Water. To turn on the tap and have it flow is something most of us take for granted. But in war-torn Sarajevo, where the faucets have been dry and queues for water have been the norm for too long, living without an adequate water supply has been a continuing, agonizing feature of the conflict that has affected the city.

UNPROFOR's Water Supply and Sewage Unit, under the supervision of Steve Hughes, has with the help of a contracted British military drilling team finally completed the drilling of two water wells in Sarajevo that will go a long way towards restoring the balance.

While fighting has prevented the project from going ahead until recently, the eight members of the Specialist Team of Royal Engineers (STRE) under Captain Bill Freeman have been busy drilling 18 other wells in Bosnia and Herzegovina and the former Serb-controlled Sectors in Croatia.

But bringing water to Sarajevo remained a top priority. Until the drilling of these wells, there was just one well in the city, and the UN was having to fly in its water at a cost of millions of dollars.

The first well, in Zetra, is 175 metres deep, while the second—at Sarajevo airport—is much shallower at 60 metres.

"What it means for the people is that when the UN pulls out, the residents of Sarajevo will inherit a guaranteed source of water that can't be affected by broken pipelines," said Mr Hughes. "These wells should last forever. There will be a constant supply of water. Should problems break out again, they won't have to queue up by the thousand, and this will take an enormous strain off the civilian population."

With the contract with STRE about to expire, Mr Hughes is hoping to squeeze in two more wells—one at Vitez and the other at Lipa. The drilling team has already headed to Vitez to get on with the job.

Meanwhile, the five members of the Water Supply and Sewage Unit will continue the job of maintaining the existing wells. They are also in the process of organizing a contract for the repair of a pipeline that leads to the top of Mount Igman, just outside Sarajevo, which will allow water to be pumped up to the Rapid Reaction Force. Once the work is completed, civilians living there will also enjoy a reliable water supply.

BRIEFS

Troops face 'mission impossible'

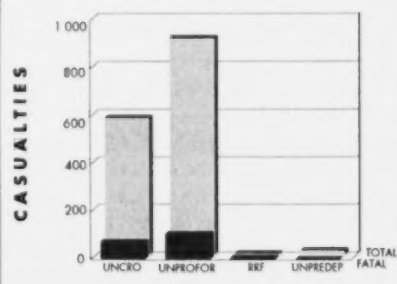
The UN had been given a "mission impossible" in Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Secretary-General, Boutros Boutros-Ghali, said at a 50th anniversary speech. "In Bosnia, the UN was sent as a peace-keeper into an ongoing wartime situation. This had never been done before. Paradoxically, now that a cease-fire and peace agreement may be in sight, it appears that NATO combat troops will be sent to replace the

UN peace-keepers. The concepts are upside down." Mr Boutros-Ghali said the future of peace-keeping depended upon the restoration of its logic. In wars, the international community should authorize the combat forces needed to deal with it, he said. Where a cease-fire was in place, and where consent and cooperation of the parties were reliable, peace-keepers should be involved.

Casualties mounting

In a recent incident near Mostar, six French peace-keepers were injured when several men threw two grenades into their camp. The French opened fire on the assailants, wounding one of them. The others fled. A total of 209 peace-keepers have been killed while on duty in former Yugoslavia and another 1,452 have been injured. In what has become a regular feature of ceremonies on UN Staff Day in New York, the names of UN civilian and military personnel killed in the line of duty during the past year were read out to assembled Secretariat staff and representatives of Member States. Included in the list of 107 names were 78 from the Balkan missions.

DISTRIBUTION OF CASUALTIES



UN concerned about Croatian Serbs in detention

UNCRO continues to monitor closely the situation of Croatian Serbs detained by the Croatian authorities since the army's offensive in Krajina during August. Most of the Serbs are still without legal representation after three months, despite the requirement under Croatian law that legal counsel be provided for all persons facing sentences of 10 years or more. UNCRO has determined that more than 700 Serbs in detention are without legal counsel. The UN is pursuing the matter with the Croatian Government to ensure that the detained Serbs are treated in accordance with the provisions of the law.

Leaders confront problems

Globalization and fragmentation were the main issues confronting world leaders as the UN celebrated its 50th anniversary, said Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali. He said the UN had gained enormous experience with these issues and was designed to respond to both global concerns and the needs of Member States. The Secretary-General said the UN could not fulfil this role, however, because it had not been given the resources required to accomplish it. He appealed to leaders to consider what it was they expected of the UN, and to give it the firm financial base it needed to operate effectively.

FYROM flag raised

The raising of the flag of the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (FYROM) at UN headquarters on 21 October symbolized emerging friendship in the region and within the international community, said Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali. Noting that FYROM had been admitted to the UN on 8 April 1993, Mr Boutros-Ghali said there was a sense of satisfaction in that the "interim accord" under which the FYROM flag had been agreed upon had been reached on 13 September 1995 under UN auspices.



Inspecting property damage

PORTRAIT OF A PEACE-KEEPER



Gendarme Patrick Kepka, 42, is a Military Policeman serving with the French Logistics Support Battalion (403 BSL) based in Zagreb, Croatia.

"I carry out Military Police investigations and provide assistance in escorting the French logistics convoys which go out from here all round the mission, to Sarajevo, Split, Zenica and so on.

"I've been a Gendarme 22 years and I came here basically to see something different, to meet the other people from the different countries involved in the mission. My job is concerned with alcohol, drugs and traffic problems, and I'm pleased to say that by and large we have no real problem with the French soldiers, these young soldiers who are mostly 20, 21 years old.

"Some of the work is still sad. I was escorting a convoy in September when a recovery truck fell down a ravine and the driver and passenger were killed. With my colleague, Adjudant Dagognet, I arranged for a second truck to be attached to the first one, to prevent it falling further, and then we went down to take the bodies out. We didn't want to see our soldiers lying in a hole. We wanted to bring them up into the sunlight with dignity.

"My mission is not to fight here—it's to try to prevent accidents like this. It's very sad that people lose their lives, both for their families and for their country. France has lost more than 50 soldiers so far, half of them in road accidents. Even one is too many.

"My wife and two children are in France. They are glad for me that I am here, but sometimes when they watch TV they start to worry. My wife knows it's good experience for me in my profession, and yes, I miss them, but I will go back in three months."

CHRONOLOGY OF EVENTS



Workers install new gas lines in Sarajevo

Photo: Staton Winter

From page 2

anniversary of the founding of the United Nations.

25 October: US Secretary of State Warren Christopher announced the postponement by one day of peace talks on Bosnia and Herzegovina at Wright-Patterson Air Force base in Dayton, Ohio, to 1 November to enable Presidents Izetbegovic, Tudjman and Milosevic to hold preliminary talks in Moscow on 31 October. A fourth round of talks was held under the auspices of International Conference on Former Yugoslavia Co-chairman Thorvald Stoltenberg and US Ambassador to Croatia Peter Galbraith between the Serb authorities and a Croatian delegation in Erdut, Sector East.

27 October: the meeting scheduled in Moscow on 31 October was called off after the Russian President was admitted to hospital with heart problems. US Defence Secretary William Perry and his Russian counterpart Pavel Grachev agreed on the use of Russian manpower for an engineering role under the peace plan for BH. Civilian vehicles entered Sarajevo through Serb-held territory for the first time since the start of the war.

28 October: the fifth round of talks between the Serb authorities and Croatian Government officials on the peaceful reintegration of eastern Slavonia was cancelled after the Serb delegation asked for more time to consider the 11 guiding principles of the draft agreement.

29 October: House of Representatives elections were held in Croatia. A UN

human rights team in north-west BH reported that during one week in October, 6,143 Bosnian Muslims were expelled from Sanski Most, Bosanski Novi, Bosanska Dubica, Banja Luka and Prijedor.

30 October: EU foreign ministers met in Luxembourg to discuss plans to provide \$US2 billion in reconstruction aid for the former Yugoslavia if the peace plan succeeded.

Russia agreed to send two battalions to BH to implement a peace plan. The total number of peace-keepers to have left Croatia was 6,200.

31 October: Mr Akashi said in his final press conference in Zagreb that the term "safe area" was a misnomer because the UN had been asked to play a role in securing "safe areas" without being given the means to protect the residents in them. Regarding Srebrenica, Mr Akashi said he had to comply with a request from the Dutch Defence Minister to suspend NATO close air support at the time of the BSA

attack in July because of the danger to Dutch troops. Mr Akashi said that the UN's unprecedented relationship with NATO had pushed the limits of classical peace-keeping and shown that under certain conditions there was a role for a more determined use of military means. HV troops fired several rounds at a Belgian OP north of Osijek. The "blue routes" remained open in Sarajevo, with 978 vehicles crossing the airport. A fourth Regional Joint Committee meeting between the BSA and the BiH was held north of Sanski Most.

1 November: Mr Akashi left the former Yugoslavia to take up a new post at New

York headquarters as a special adviser to the Secretary-General. Peace talks started in the United States between Presidents Milosevic, Izetbegovic and Tudjman, all of whom expressed optimism about the results. Also at the meeting were representatives of the Contact Group (the Russian Federation, the United States, Britain, France and Germany). The situation in Sector East was stable with 37 firing incidents reported. The total number of troops to have left BH in the restructuring of UNPROFOR was 2,912, leaving about 27,000 in theatre. A UN convoy, which included five civilian trucks, travelled from Sarajevo to Gorazde and back without incident.

4 November: the Secretary-General's new Special Envoy to the Former Yugoslavia and NATO, Kofi Annan, arrived in Zagreb. The Serb side failed to turn up at Osijek for a further round of talks on the peaceful reintegration of Sector East. President Tudjman said the peace-keeping mandate for the UN in Croatia would not be renewed after 30 November.

5 November: the Serbs in Sector East asked for further modifications to the draft agreement for the peaceful reintegration of Sector East. HV troops fired at a Russian armoured personnel carrier in the Sector. Bosnian Vice-President Ejup Ganic said that under a NATO peace plan BH would be divided into British, United States and French-administered military sectors whose centres would be Gornji Vakuf, Tuzla and Mostar. Unidentified assailants threw two grenades at French troops in a UN base at Vrapcici, north of Mostar, at 11.30 p.m. A Legionnaire was shot in the arm and six others were injured by a grenade blast. The French returned fire, wounding one of the attackers, all of whom fled.

6 November: Mr Stoltenberg was in Zagreb to meet Mr Annan to discuss Sector East developments. The Security Council began considering a draft resolution on serious violations of international humanitarian law in and around Srebrenica and in the former Sectors of Croatia.

7 November: UNHCR said it was concerned that more than 10,000 people in the Federation area had been relocated against their will from central and north-eastern BH to Bosnian Krajina. A total of 7,470 UNCRO troops had withdrawn from Croatia.

8 November: In Brussels, NATO, the United States and Russia reached agreement on a mechanism for the deployment of Russian troops in connection with the NATO-led peace plan for BH.



Mr Akashi

MISSION FACTS

United Nations Peace Forces (UNPF)

Special Envoy of the Secretary-General to the Former Yugoslavia and NATO:

Mr Kofi Annan

Force Commander:

Lieutenant-General Bernard Janvier

Total at 6 November '95: 40,731

Military (includes UNPF HQ)	35,075
Civilian	4,664
Military Observers (includes UNPF and FRY)	610
Civilian Police	382

United Nations Preventive Deployment Force (UNPREDEP)

UNPREDEP was established in the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (FYROM) by Security Council resolution 983 (31 March 1995), replacing UNPROFOR (established by resolution 795 of 11 December 1992). UNPREDEP's mandate expires on 30 November 1995.

Chief of Mission:

Mr Henryk Sokalski

Commander, FYROM Command:

Brigadier-General Juha Engström

Troop contributing countries:

Denmark, Finland, Indonesia, Norway, Sweden, United States

Troop deployments:

United States	494
Finland	426
Norway	47
Denmark	44
Sweden	40
Indonesia	2

Total mission strength: 1,105

Military	1,053
Military Observers	27
Civilian Police	25

United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR)

UNPROFOR was established in the former Yugoslavia by Security Council resolution 743 (21 February 1992). UNPROFOR's mandate was most recently extended in Bosnia and Herzegovina by resolution 982 (31 March 1995) until 30 November 1995.

Chief of Mission:

Mr Antonio Pedauye

Commander, BH Command:

Lieutenant-General Rupert Smith

Commander, Sector Sarajevo:

Brigadier-General Jean-René Bachelet

Troop contributing countries:

Bangladesh, Belgium, Canada, Denmark, Egypt, France, Germany, Jordan, Malaysia, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Pakistan, Russia, Spain, Sweden, Turkey, Ukraine, United Kingdom

Troop deployments:

Sarajevo	(total 4,834)
France	3,091
Ukraine	578
Russia	510
Egypt	410
BH Command HQ	167
Sarajevo HQ	78
Sector North-East	(total 4,443)
Pakistan	2,942
Nordic	1,134
Netherlands	207
Jordan	102
Headquarters	58
Sector South-West	(total 6,194)
Malaysia	1,837
Turkey	1,450
Spain	1,274
Canada	811

United Kingdom	464
New Zealand	250
Headquarters	108

Bihac	(total 1,245)
Bangladesh	1,234
Headquarters	11

Rapid Reaction Force (total 6,707)

Located in Split, Ploce, Kiseljak, Zagreb, Tomislavgrad, Sarajevo, Vitez

Support Units: (total 3,688)

Located in Split, Santici, Zenica
Sarajevo, Kakanj and Tuzla

Total mission strength: 27,425

Military	27,111
Military Observers	290
Civilian Police	24

United Nations Confidence Restoration Operation in Croatia (UNCRO)

UNCRO was established in Croatia by Security Council resolution 981 (31 March 1995), replacing UNPROFOR (established by resolution 743 of 21 February 1992). UNCRO's mandate expires on 30 November 1995.

Chief of Mission:

Mr Byung Suk Min

Commander, Croatia Command:

Major-General Eid Kamel Al Rodan

Troop-contributing countries:

Argentina, Belgium, Canada, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Indonesia, Jordan, Kenya, Lithuania, Nepal, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Russia, Slovakia, Sweden, Ukraine, United States

Troop deployments:

Sector East	(total 1,598)
Russia	901
Belgium	697
Sector West	(total 165)
Nepal	161
Argentina	4
Sector North	(total 924)
Poland	469
Ukraine	172
Denmark	169
Jordan	114

Sector South (total 637)

Czech Republic	621
Canada	11
Kenya	3
Jordan	2

Headquarters and Support: (total 3,216)

Located in Zagreb, Split, Ploce and Daruvar

Total mission strength: 7,174

Military	6,600
Military Observers	241
Civilian Police	333